

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3 – 49 are presented for reconsideration and further examination in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks. Claim 2 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 2, 3, 6 and 23 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form and rejected claims 1, 4, 5 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by a publication to Mittal titled: “Salt Bath Test for Assessing the Adhesion of Silver to Poly (Ethylene Terephthalate)” (hereinafter referred to as “the Mittal publication”).

By this Response and Amendment, claim 1 has been amended to recite the feature of allowable claim 2; and claim 3 has been amended to be in independent form; and claims 27 – 49, which depend directly or indirectly from claim 3, have been newly added. It is respectfully submitted that these amendments do not introduce to this application new matter, within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §132.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1, 4, 5 and 24 were rejected as being anticipated by the Mittal publication.

Response

The Examiner indicated that claims 2, 3, 6 and 23 would be allowable if rewritten to include the features of the base claim and any intervening claim. By this Response and Amendment, claim 1 has been amended to include the features of claim 2, thereby incorporating the allowable subject matter of claim 2. Applicants therefore assert that claim 1 and the claims

dependent thereon are allowable as all claims now contain allowable subject matter.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejection.

MISCELLANEOUS

Applicants assert that claims 27 – 49 are patentable over the cited prior art since they depend directly or indirectly from allowable claim 3 and therefore necessarily contain all of the features of allowable claim 3.

Additionally, Applicants note the Examiner's indication of claim 1 as a linking claim. Applicant asserts that claims 7 – 22, which were previously directed to nonelected inventions, and which require all of the features of allowable claim 2, should be rejoined and fully examined for patentability.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes the application is not in condition for allowance, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney if it is believed that such contact will expedite the prosecution of the application.

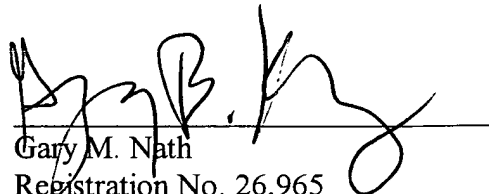
In the event this paper is not timely filed, Applicants petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 14-0112.

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Reply to Office Action of May 16, 2006
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